

of the Committee on the Judiciary in recognizing the important nature of this issue and making it a priority and moving it to the floor for consideration.

I am very pleased to be an original coauthor of this timely and important piece of legislation. As I said earlier today, human cloning is not a Republican or a Democrat issue, it is an issue for all of mankind. The prospect of cloning a human being raises serious moral, ethical, and human health implications. Other countries around the globe look to us for leadership, not only on this but on other important pressing issues, and I think we have a responsibility to take a stand and take a leadership position. That stand should reflect the respect for human dignity envisioned by our Founding Fathers.

Human cloning: what once was said to be impossible could become a reality if we do not take action today. I have spent a great deal of time back home in Indiana traveling up and down the highways and byways, attending county fairs, fire departments, little fish fries, church suppers; and I can tell my colleagues that overwhelmingly those people that I represent in Indiana are concerned at our racing towards cloning human beings. They have asked me to help with this effort to ban human cloning. I have received calls from all across the country from those that are concerned about this issue.

As we have heard today, most Americans are opposed to the re-creation of another human being. I am told overwhelmingly that it is our responsibility not only here in this body and at home but around the world that we move to enact this ban.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying this: I believe that God created us, and I do not believe we should play God. I urge my colleagues to support our legislation to ban human cloning.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I, like the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), want to say right off the bat that none of us believe in cloning of human beings. Nobody on either side. We get this values argument. None of us believe in that. So stop that.

The second thing is that we are here today to talk about a political issue. This is not a scientific issue. I am a doctor, and we will have another doctor get up here and tell us a lot of doctor stuff, but the real issue is a political one here.

We are like the 16th century Spanish king who went to the Pope and asked him if it was all right for human beings to drink coffee. The coffee bean had been brought from the New World. It had a drug in it that made people get

kind of excited and it was a great political controversy about whether or not it was right to drink coffee. And so the Spanish king went to the Pope and said, Pope, is it all right. Well, we had that just the other day, and the Pope said, this is not right.

The Pope also told Galileo to quit making those marks in his notebook. The Earth is the center of the universe, he said. We all know that. The Bible says it. What is it this stuff where you say the sun is the center of our universe? That is wrong.

Now, here we are making a decision like we were the house of cardinals on a religious issue when, in fact, scientists are struggling to find out how human beings actually work. We have mixed stem cells together with cloning all to confuse people. Everybody on this floor knows that the best way to stop something is to confuse people, and we have had confusion on this issue because basically people want it to be a value-laden issue that attracts one group of voters against others. That is all this is about, all this confusion.

This business about a few cells and working and figuring out how we can deal with diseases that affect everybody in this room, there is nobody who does not know somebody with juvenile diabetes or Alzheimer's disease or has had a spinal cord injury and is unable to walk, or who has Parkinsonism. There is nobody here. And my dear friends putting this bill forward say there is no way, no matter how it happens, that we want to help them if it involves a human cell.

Now, my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is going to get up here and tell us we have a section in this bill that says scientific research is not stopped. Read it. It says we can use monkey cells and put them into people who have Alzheimer's, or we can use hippopotamus cells and put them into people who have diabetes, but we cannot use a human cell. And even more so if the British or the Germans, who are more enlightened, do it and we bring it over. If the doctor gets the material from Germany or from England or some other place and gives it to my colleague's mother, he is subject to 10 years in prison and a fine of not less than \$1 million running up to twice whatever the value of it is.

Now, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) is upset that there is licensing in the amendment, which I will vote for; not because I think we need it but because we have to have it as an antidote to this awful piece of legislation that is here. But the gentleman from Wisconsin says the free enterprise system is here. I thought he believed in the free enterprise system. Would the gentleman want that bill to say let us give it to the National Institutes of Health to make money; make it a government program? No, no, no, he would not want that. Well, who is going to manufacture this if it comes some day to

that point? It says the NIH can license at some point down the road.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the Greenwood amendment is necessary to stop this papal event that we are having here today.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to clarify the record after this last speech. Number one, there is nothing in the Weldon bill that prevents the use of adult stem cells or stem cells from live births, including umbilical cords and placentas from being used for the research that the gentleman describes.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) talked about a Yale study. I have the Yale Bulletin Calendar of December 1, 2000 about the research on monkeys that were used to cure a spinal cord injury. Those were adult stem cells. They would be completely legal under this bill.

Then we have heard from the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. McDERMOTT), who seems to think we are having a religious seance here. The fact of the matter is there have been a number of things that are in derogation of the free enterprise system that this Congress and the people of the country have banned, including slavery. And I think that perhaps the time has come to ban the cloning of human embryos.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the distinguished whip.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I think and I hope that Members will support the Weldon bill and oppose the Greenwood amendment.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about making fun of the Pope or making fun of the Bible. This is not about politics. It is not even about stem cell research. This is about a very real problem in this country, a potential problem, and that is cloning human beings. The connotations of this debate raise very broad and disturbing questions for our society.

So-called therapeutic cloning crosses a very bright-line ethical boundary that should give all of us pause. This technique would reduce some human beings to the level of an industrial commodity. Cloning treats human embryos, the basic elements of life itself, as a simple raw material. This exploitive unholly technique is no better than medical strip-mining.

The preservation of life is what is being lost here. The sanctity and precious nature of each and every human life is being obscured in this debate. Cloning supporters are trading upon the desperate hopes of people who struggle with illness. We should not draw medical solutions from the unwholesome well of an ungoverned monstrous science that lacks any reasonable consideration for the sanctity of human life.

Now, some people would doubtlessly argue if we use in vitro fertilization to